

Appl. No. 10/642,313

Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2004

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on August 13, 2004 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. In the Restriction Requirement, four allegedly distinct inventions were identified as follows:

Group I – Claims 1-7 and 14-16;

Group II – Claims 8-13;

Group III – Claim 17 (and presumably claims 18 and 19, which depend therefrom); and

Group IV – Claim 20.

Applicants note that the application as filed included original Claims 1-20. As original claims 18-19 depend from claim 17, Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to include these claims in Group III.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants, through their representatives and attorneys, hereby elect Group I (e.g., Claims 1-7 and 14-16) without traverse.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorneys at the below-listed number.


If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: Aug 23, 2004

By:



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